THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

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Zeke Berman Photographs
September 11 - November 1, 1987

As part of its ongoing series of contemporary photography exhibitions, The Cleveland Museum of Art presents about 20 black-and-white images by Zeke Berman, an energetic New York artist who challenges the logic of our perception. The exhibition runs September 11 through November 1, in Gallery D.

Arranging still-life scenarios of everyday objects, primarily in his studio, Berman creates amusing discrepancies in what we perceive as two- and three-dimensional objects. In his play between illusion and reality, Berman always gives us a clue--a loop of string or a glob of glue--the dead giveaway that what appears is a fabrication by the artist.

Berman sometimes photographs a flat image of, for example, a table, which may be perceived in his print as an actual table. Berman reverses the trompe l'oeil effect in other photographs: what appears to be flat is actually three-dimensional. Space becomes quite plastic in the context of Berman's photographs, and the mind struggles to will his sometimes childlike constructions into three dimensions.

Before teaching himself photography, Berman received a bachelor's degree in sculpture from the Philadelphia College of Art. He was one of four artists included in the Museum of Modern Art's 1985 show, New Photographs, and in 1986 the Art Institute of Chicago held a one-man show of his photographs. Works in the current exhibition were selected by Curator of Contemporary Art Tom Hinson, and were lent by the artist and his gallery, Lieberman and Saul, New York.

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